

GUIDELINES FOR GROUND PERSONNEL AIRCRAFT FIRE (8300)

(Revised September 2001)

In the event of aircraft fire while the aircraft is on the ground, ramp managers and parking tenders can be of assistance in extinguishing a fire that is otherwise not controllable from inside the aircraft by the flight crew.

Some things to keep in mind:

Some minor and/or momentary "fire" during aircraft engine starting is normal. Typically this will be a quick "torching" from the exhaust or tailpipe caused by excess residual fuel being purged at first ignition. This can occur on both turbine and piston aircraft engines. (In fact, it happens on ground vehicles occasionally but is not seen as it is contained by the long exhaust and muffler system.) FIRE FIGHTING ACTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN WHEN THIS IS OBSERVED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE FLIGHT CREW. It probably will not be requested!

If a pilot or flight crew gets a fire indication during engine start, they will follow a specific procedure which will include SHUTTING DOWN THE ENGINE(S). Ground crews may not know why the engine(s) were shut down, but should concentrate their attention on the aircraft, particularly on the pilot for signals or a radio call. If the pilot or crew indicates a fire via hand signals or radio, they are only informing you of the problem. Again, DO NOT TAKE FIRE FIGHTING ACTION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE FLIGHT CREW.

When should ground personnel take action?

If the action taken by the flight crew is unsuccessful, three things will be evident:

1. Any running engines will be shut down.
2. Flames will likely be visible outside of the engine nacelle or cowling.
3. The flight crew will signal for your assistance.

What action should the ground crew take?

1. Use prudent fire fighting techniques - aim extinguisher at base of flames, etc.
2. Follow specific instructions from the flight crew, if given.
3. Expect the aircraft crew (and occupants) to be exiting the aircraft.
4. Order heavy duty aircraft fire fighting equipment (crash-rescue) as back-up. (It can be canceled if the fire is controlled.).

SUMMARY:

Do not take action on an aircraft ground fire unless:

1. THE ENGINES ARE SHUT DOWN
2. FLAMES ARE VISIBLE
3. THE FLIGHT CREW REQUESTS ASSISTANCE

Every aircraft is unique in some respect. Ramp managers and other ground personnel are encouraged to discuss with the pilots the peculiarities of each type aircraft at their base.

These guidelines do not cover every possible situation, but should give general guidance with respect to a typical aircraft ground fire during start up.